

of the Prodigal Son! It couldn't be forgotten. There never were much present reward in all our work for him. In spite of dark life enigmas and real and happy trials and often keen inner conflict, not to mention daily burdens of weariness or anxiety, we can set to our seal that his ways are ways of pleasantness. For over and above the great gifts, the blessed hope set before us, and the quiet peace with God thru our Lord Jesus Christ, what number of bits and drops of pleasure and delight one gets which simply would not exist for us if we were not his children!

A liquid air crematory has been constructed in New York, and is ready for its gruesome office. Liquid Air is the recent discovery that air, subjected to a temperature of about 300 degrees below zero becomes liquid like water. Its intense cold makes it as destructive as fire, and is much better adapted to crematory purposes, reducing the body to ashes in a much shorter time. Cremation seems to be popular with agnostics and other unbelievers in the future life. People who believe in the resurrection of the body treat it with more becoming reverence in the solemn and hopeful rites of Christian burial.

Dog Funerals

"Unspeakable Paris!" exclaimed a celebrated journalist not long since, after he had been for a while in the French capital, long enough to catch the mighty drift of iniquity which rolls like a deluge thru its streets and palaces. It is amazing, the infinite variety of its sin, the versatility of depravity, the refinements of impiety and blasphemy which give it the unenviable distinction of being the wickedest city in the world. We would not for the world specify the list. Miles and miles of sewage have no attractions for us. The heading of this article indicates only one of their very little, and as Paris goes, very harmless fads. Dog funerals. The fashionable people hold funeral services over dead dogs. They are well dressed affairs, held in elegant drawing rooms. The dog coffins are decorated with wreathes, and cards are sent out, announcing the funerals. One of these cards got into the hands of a bishop who took it upon himself to send a stinging reproof. He was told that the thing was general, whereupon he wrote an article for publication denouncing the lack of decent feeling in modern society.

Wants to be a Foreign Missionary

It has not been my privilege to be in the work for God as closely as I have desired for several years, but have been quietly preaching for the Hudson church and praying the Master to send reapers into his harvest, for the harvest is truly great but true reapers are seemingly scarce. It is a terrible thing that so many are in darkness when the church is so rich in resources. Every true child of God is desirous of having all the world know of his Redeemer and no follower of him can keep from doing all he can to carry the Gospel to those who know it not. Oh, that all might know Him who is so precious to us, and do his will when he says, "Go teach all nations." The obligation is upon us, will we obey?

I append a letter that came from one of

our Hudson boys who is now in the State University of Iowa, taking the medical course, with an object self explanatory in the letter. He is a noble soul, born of God for great things, yet willing to fill any place the Holy Spirit dictates. The foreign mission call has been upon him for years and we are sure it is of God for his motives are not for self glory but Christ's. As you read ask God's blessing upon yourself and him that he may find a way open to go out for our Master and Savior to those who know him not.

E. L. HILDEBRAND.

Following is the letter:

Iowa City, Iowa,
Feb. 13, 1900.

Rev. E. L. Hildebrand,
Waterloo, Iowa.

Dear brother:—I write for your opinion and advice upon a subject in which I am much interested and a work which seems to me ought to be done. That is missionary work in our church. Of course you know I have long contemplated work in the foreign missionary field, and it was with that in view that I took up the study of medicine, hoping to go out as a medical missionary. It seems to me that we as a church are not doing what we should along this line, and I also believe it is simply because our church is not educated in missionary work. Just what is being done along this line by the head of the church I am not able to say, as I have not kept in close touch with the church, but as far as reaching the laity they know but little in regard to missions.

It seems to me if we could educate them and once get them interested much might be done by us as a church, for I believe we have the spirit of the Master as much as any church, and all we need is to catch Christ's spirit in regard to missions, which will not be done until we know the needs of the field, then will we become a missionary church.

I have been thinking since I came back from my holiday vacation, that I would like to spend two months, more or less, of my summer vacation which begins the first of April, in visiting our churches spending three or four days, perhaps make two churches a week, and holding missionary meetings. Simply bringing to them Christ's command upon the subject and presenting the needs of the field, organizing missionary committees in the young people's society, and getting them to take a more active part in the work, and also get them to put in a missionary library; say from \$10 to \$15 worth of missionary books, which the missionary committee would have charge of and keep it in circulation and have it read.

Do you think something along that line could be done? Perhaps I couldn't do it as well as some one else, yet if no one else is obtainable, perhaps I, by the help of our Master, might be able to sow some seed that would fall upon good ground and bring forth fruit.

I would like to hear from you upon the subject. Perhaps such a thing wouldn't be

possible, and maybe it would not be practical, but I would like to hear your mind on the subject.

(Vesta House, Iowa City, Ia.)

North Manchester, Ind.

Since my last report there has been one accession to the Nappanee church by confession; also one to the North Manchester church by letter. You will hear a favorable report from these churches for the Washington church. We are ready for every good work.

B. H. FLORA.

Harrisonburg, Va.

As we promised to give monthly news from this section we come again asking a little space. With the opening of spring we expect our work here to take on new life as all seem to be zealous and full of good works. Our Sunday-school will be re-organized the first Sunday in April. I believe it best to have an evergreen Sunday-school but it was thought best to close during the winter months. The Christian Endeavor society is doing good work and is becoming an important factor in church work here. We have accepted the unanimous call of the church here which includes the work in Perdleton Co., W. Va. The Arkton congregation has given us a call to serve them in connection with my present work. We may accept.

We were very pleasantly surprised a short time ago by a band of donors who filled the larder with substantials necessary to keep up physical life and make the home comfortable. We appreciate such expressions of appreciation and hope the donors may be blessed a hundred fold. With much interest in the success of the cause I remain.

J. I. HALL.

Joseph Cook has sufficiently recovered his strength to deliver occasional lectures. Recently, he wrote on "Higher Criticism," as follows: "No doubt new light has been thrown on individual passages of Scripture by the literary and historical microscopic investigations of our time, but no fundamental revolution has been achieved, such as to unite in its support the mass of critics who are at once fair and free, and competent and conscientious. The spiritual uses of the Holy Scriptures remain meanwhile unexplored, while the literary criticism goes on threshing the mere husks of the immeasurably precious Biblical wheat and the people starve."

First, we must ascend to our heart, that is, to the knowledge of ourselves; then, in our heart, that is, to acknowledge our own infirmities; next, from our hearts, that is, from the love of ourselves; and last of all, above our heart, that is, to the love of Christ.—St. Bernard.

Unless thou strive, thou shall never obtain the crown of patience. Neither is quietness obtained without labor, nor victory without fighting.—Thomas a Kempis.